

STANHOPE

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

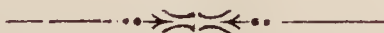


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR 1902.



STANHOPE :—

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To the Blunhope Urban District Council.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1902.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate	Zymotic Rate	Infant Mortality. Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate.
1902.	1964	24.9	16.80	1.52	61.2	1.52	1.52
Averages for years 1892-1901.	1932	27.3	14.65	2.0	76.1	2.0	2.2
County Rates for 1902.		35.6	16.6	1.68	139	1.06	2.91

During the year there died in the district 19 females and 15 males, a total of 34. Of these 3 "non-residents" belonging to Tow Law, Eastgate and Wolsingham, died in the Workhouse. In addition 2 males from the Urban District died in the County Asylum. This makes 33 for the District, a rate of 16.80 per 1,000.

The following are the ages at death:—Under one year, 3 ; one and under five, 1 ; five and under fifteen, 2 ; fifteen and under twenty-five, 2 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 17 ; sixty-five and over, 11.

Infectious Disease caused three deaths, viz:—one from Erysipelas, one from Diarrhœa, and the other from Membranous Croup—1.5 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.—Under one year, one death was due to Laryngitis, another to Diarrhœa, and a third to Premature Birth—a rate of 61 per 1,000 births.

Phthisis.—Four deaths were registered from this cause, one of which occurred in the County Asylum. This leaves 3 for the district—a rate of 1.52 per 1,000.

Other Lung Diseases.—Caused 3 deaths—a rate of 1.52 per 1,000.

Births.—During the year a total of 49 births (25 males and 24 females) were registered—a rate of 24.9 per 1,000 births, compared with an average for the last 10 years of 27.37, and a County rate of 35.6.

Tables I, II, III, IV, are attached.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 16 cases of Infectious Disease were notified—10 of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Erysipelas, 2 Enteric Fever, and one of Membranous Croup.

Diarrhœa caused one death in an infant and was not epidemic at any time during the year.

Erysipelas caused one death, due directly to Diffuse Suppurative Cellulitis.

Scarlet Fever.—A small scattered epidemic occurred during September and October, the disease being of a very mild type. The origin of the first case could not be traced. The rooms were all fumigated and disinfected under the immediate supervision of your Inspector.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever.—Of the two cases both occurring in East Lane, one was notified on June 22nd, and was probably attributable to insanitary surroundings, which were remedied. The second was notified on July 27th, but no insanitary condition was found in or about the house. Disinfectants were freely supplied, the excreta were deeply buried after disinfection, and the houses fumigated under the supervision of your Inspector.

Tubercular Disease caused 5 deaths. Three were from Pulmonary Disease, one from Tubercular Meningitis, and another from General Tuberculosis. This gives a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 which is not excessive, but which in a district like Stanhope ought to be even less.

In the light of recent experience I beg to point out:—

1. That nearly all cases in this district are due to Inhalations of the Tubercle Bacillus in the form of dust.

2. That every case of consumption is due to some previous case, where the discharges (e.g. Sputum) have not been destroyed.

3. That indiscriminate spitting is dangerous, as early cases of consumption may go about for long before being recognised.

4. That being a dust disease, certain houses are tainted or infected, and lend themselves to remaining so indefinitely, owing to lack of proper ventilation and absence of direct sunshine.

5. That certain families are more prone to “catch” the infection than others.

6. That overcrowding of houses reduces the resisting power of the individual and renders him more liable to the disease.

As remedial measures I would suggest the following:—

1. That further measures be taken to improve the sanitary condition of dwellings, particularly those of the working classes, e.g. as regards overcrowding, defective ventilation, damp, and general insanitary state.

2. That notification of cases where discharges are infectious be attempted, in order,

3. That disinfectants may be supplied by your Authority and a pocket spittoon with suitable instructions be given to lung cases.

4. That notices be posted in all places of assembly as to the dangers of indiscriminate spitting.

Disinfection of Houses is carried out by your Council where allowed. During the year one house was fumigated, all wall-paper pulled off and repapered, and a bed and mattress burned.

The County Sanatorium at Horn Hall has been extended during the year by the addition of a new wing, and now accommodates 30 patients—9 females and 21 males. A series of Septic tanks has also been put down for the treatment of Sewage, and so far this method has proved satisfactory.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply.—This has been plentiful, and of good quality, free from any possible risk of contamination.

Public Scavenging.—The system started in Oct. 1901, has been continued very successfully during the year. Nuisances arising from overfull ashpits have been most conspicuous by their absence. There are still ashpits of bad constitution in the district, some of them being difficult of access. This matter points to the need of back streets for certain houses.

Bye-Laws.—New Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter Houses, Nuisances, and duties in connection with the removal of House Refuse, were passed by the Local Government Board on Sept. 22nd, 1902.

A Bye-law comprising Part III, Sec. 23, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, would be a still further benefit as applying more particularly to old property.

New Houses.—Council Room with Ante-rooms, and accommodation for Caretaker and one tenant on ground floor, with Hall above, have been built during the year at Cross Hill, and opened for public use Dec. 26th, 1902.

Inspection and Results.—During the year, 23 notices have been served by your Inspector.

Thirteen verbal notices were given for foul conditions and were complied with.

Of seven verbal informal notices to owners, one for privy to be replaced by W.C. and six for the reconstruction of 9 privies into ash closets, all have been promised attention as soon as weather permits.

One formal written notice was served on owner to reconstruct 9 privies and middens into ash closets. This work is going on at present.

One written notice was served on owner to provide sufficient conveniences for 7 occupiers. The owner has notified his intention of providing sufficient accommodation.

One notice was served to provide ash closet accommodation where none now exists. Subsequently another notice was given under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, with a view to a closing order, should nuisances not be abated. This notice expires on Feb. 10th.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Some means of isolating Infectious cases.
2. Registration and Regulation of Dairies and Cowsheds
3. Better access to all back premises, to facilitate Public Scavenging.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JNO. GRAY,

Feb. 7th. 1903.

